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FM AMCONSUL KOLKATA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1851
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 1735
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI IMMEDIATE 0791
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI IMMEDIATE 0796
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0526
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0523
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0383
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC
RUEILB/NCTC WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEFHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 2263

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: WEST BENGAL AUTHORITIES BELIEVE JAN. 16 EXPLOSION NEAR CONSULATE WAS CHEMICAL BOMB

REF: KOLKATA 0016

¶1. (SBU) On January 28, ConGen met with West Bengal Home Secretary Prasad Ranjan Ray, the state's senior official

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responsible for security, regarding the explosion which occurred 200 meters from the Consulate on January 16 (reftel). The explosion occurred a block from the Consulate on Shakespeare Sarani (street), in front of the Hindustan Unilever House, injuring five pedestrians and shattering some windows of neighboring buildings. Ray confirmed that after much forensic investigation, available information indicates that the explosion was likely caused by a chemical bomb. He noted that initially the cause of the explosion was hard to determine as there was no standard high-explosive residue such as from RDX, dynamite or others. However, trace amounts of potentially explosive chemicals were found after some additional investigation.

¶2. (SBU) On January 17, Deputy Commissioner Special Branch Damayanti Sen told Post that since initially no explosive residues were found at the site, a team of experts from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kharagpur and the Central Forensic Science Laboratory were researching the explosion. The team will submit its findings on February 1. Sen said informally that initial indications showed some nitrate-based biological/chemical reaction may have taken place at the blast site.

¶3. (SBU) Ray did not know who might have placed the bomb on Shakespeare Sarani or why. He was afraid that it might have been an effort at extortion directed at a business in the area, but again he had no concrete information. ConGen asked for a copy of the IIT report once released on February 1 and Ray said that he would provide any additional information that he could share.

JARDINE